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PROMOTERS GET BURNT FINGERS

By Glyn Griffiths in Sydney

Once again, an outside promoter has dabbled in the complex business of arranging soccer tours . . . and has had his fingers burned.

Before the start of this season, a public relations firm in Melbourne brought two of the best club sides from Europe and South America to Australia for a tour. The teams were Slovan Bratislava, leaders of the Czechoslovakian first division, and Cruzeiro, rated the equal of any side in Brazil.

Such teams should be good enough to attract big attendances, even making allowances for the lukewarm enthusiasm of so many alleged soccer fans in this country.

But it is a safe bet that, far from making money for the promoters, Cruzeiro and Slovan must have cost tour organisers several thousand dollars. So what went wrong?

The response of the public went to both extremes. When Slovan played their first game in Sydney, against Marconi Fairfield, there were fewer than 3,000 people present. Admittedly, it was a filthy night, during a prolonged spell of wet Sydney weather.

Then, when Slovan played Cruzeiro in Melbourne for the first time, almost 30,000 fans packed into Olympic Park, causing the tour promoters to breathe again.

The return Slovan v Cruzeiro game at Sydney Showground was, without doubt, the most puzzling one of the entire tour – as far as dollars and cents were concerned.

It was agreed by most people on hand that night that the crowd was not less than 24,000 and could have been as much as 30,000. Yet when the "official" figures were totted up, the Showground reported a crowd of just 15,000. It is not surprising that the promoters, who expected a handsome cash return from the packed stands and terraces, were completely shattered.

According to one Sydneysider, with an intimate knowledge of the Showground amenities, the ground can accommodate 42,500 when it is filled to capacity. On the night of the Cruzeiro v Slovan match, the official attendance, therefore, indicated the Showground was nearly two-thirds empty!

Apart from the big open stand (half full) and the top deck of the R.A.S. members' stand (empty) there were virtually no spaces to be seen anywhere in the Showground that night.

The mystery of the official attendance has still not been solved. It is a fact, though, that many spectators entered the ground without paying. Some stormed a gate. Others climbed fences. But it is difficult to imagine some 10,000 people getting in without passing through the official gates.

In later tour games in Melbourne, the crippling power strike caused attendances to slump disastrously, making the whole tour a most disturbing experience for the promoters.

Yet, for all the headaches of missing fans, some good did come out of all this.

Sydney spectators, getting their first look at top Brazilian football, were delighted by the performance of Cruzeiro against Slovan. Cruzeiro, including World Cup maestro Tostao, served up soccer of remarkable skill. In comparison, the Bratislava team were made to look like heavy-footed novices.

Anyone for water polo?

Conditions at the Sydney Showground for the match between Marconi-Fairfield and the visiting Slovan Bratislava team were so bad that it looked more like an aquatic contest than a soccer match.

ABOVE: Marconi left-winger Alan Griffiths (right) engages in a splashing duel with a Czech player.

Marconi played with only ten men in the second half because their star inside-forward Ernie Campbell was sent off for a foul on Jan Medek.

The match ended in a scoreless goal.

The Slovaks fielded half a dozen players who have represented Czechoslovakia, but after containing the Brazilians for the first 45 minutes, they were well outclassed in the second half. Cruzeiro, despite the misfortune of hitting the woodwork several times, won in a canter 4-1. If all eyes were on the well-known Tostao, it was another Cruzeiro inside-forward, Duarco Lopes, who emerged as the class player of the match.

This black soccer sorcerer with the twinkling feet, ran Slovan's defence dizzy. I was not surprised to be told afterwards that Duerco Lopes would attract a bigger transfer fee than Pele if both went on to the transfer market. "But of course," said a Cruzeiro official, "there is not enough money anywhere to buy Lopes."

Continued on page 11.

the cover

Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Eric Hulme dives at the feet of Tottenham Hotspur's Martin Chivers, while Liam O'Kane covers for Hulme. – AAP Photo.

SOCCER SCENE

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W.A. Clubs Make Major Decision

By David Andrews

On Sunday, February 20, W.A. entered a new era of administration — a change that could make a big difference to the code in this State.

This is a sweeping statement of confidence which, judged on past experience, could well explode in my face.

The new council, voted in last December under the new presidency of John Venn, asked for a mandate to run soccer in W.A. and do away with the meaningless secretaries' meetings.

There was a lot of discussion on one phrase of the proposal — the handing over of supreme power to the council. Supreme power, it was argued, meant dictatorship, without redress by the clubs.

And it was pointed out that the clubs would still have ultimate power because the constitution would allow for a two-thirds majority to call an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss any proposal or action by the council.

Clubs' distrust of central administration has been ingrained over the past few years and the argument became a struggle for one side to convince the other that newer days were here.

No-one argued with the formation of the council, in which there would be a president, two vice presidents and four council members, with a non-voting secretary.

No-one seemed to object to the formation of a first division league management and a similar one for the second division, who each would have ten votes eventually. An amendment was inserted that there would be one vote for one club until the present 12-team first division and 14-team second division had been reduced to ten teams each.

Amateur, junior and school soccer were lumped together, as were the referees and coaches.

In place of the secretaries' meetings each month, the council of the Federation would, in future, meet these groups as often as was required to plan and work out the problems of each section. This move would alleviate the constant side bickerings that always occured at secretaries' meetings and so prolong them, with little useful business being accomplished.

After much discussion, the vote was taken, with a two-thirds majority required for it to be passed.

Many harsh things were said by those for and against, but in the end the council's proposal squeaked through by a percentage of a vote.

In fact, a second vote was required, with one voter changing sides. This gave the council the green light to start planning for the game's future.

But the one point that many seemed to miss throughout the entire meeting was that none of these administrative changes can come about till the start of 1973. In the meantime, there will be ample opportunity for the anti forces to gauge the worth of the new council.

Seven clubs failed to show up, and will be fined. Their attitude to the change of administration could prove a vital deciding factor.

By 1974, the first and second divisions will each comprise ten clubs.

This proposal stuck in the gullet of some clubs, particularly those in second

Continued on page 5.

Azzurri wins the championship for the seventh time in their 13-year career. One of the future stars Eric Marocchi (left) falls, after having just beaten Swan Athletic's Ken Wright, while Mike Allenby looks on unable to do much about the situation. Marocchi failed to recover his balance here, but it made little difference as Azzurri coasted home to a 4-1 victory and clinched the 1971 title. The 1972 W.A. title is going to be a tougher competition.

Tony Eikhoudt is a goalkeeper who throws himself into any game. However, at present he does not know which way to go — whether to stay with Ascot or to transfer to first division newcomers Kwinana United. For Ascot he has to travel 64 miles each time he attends training, while Kwinana's ground is within walking distance of his home.

Amazing 1972 night series form

The 1972 W.A. night competition has seen the demise of last year's two grand-finalists Azzurri (the winner last year) and Olympic before they even reached the third round of the preliminary competition.

Azzurri's elimination after an almost clean sweep of the major titles in 1971, was the most amazing of all.

In fact, they managed only one point out of the six available.

Olympic lost all three preliminary games — the first time they have not won a game — and need a complete stock taking.

They have gained the services of John McAvoy the former South Coast United (Sydney) player and immediately he showed touches in his first game. With him came half-back Don Rimmer, also from South Coast, who could prove more than useful.

The most disappointing team was Windmills, a club that has always presented an exciting front and most of their matches were tinged with excitement. They had always been near the top and no team could ever afford to relax against them.

The same standard applied during the 1972 night competition and again they came close to making the semi-finals.

Off the field, however, Windmills are having troubles which threaten to destroy them unless morale-boosting measures are taken quickly.

Their star player John O'Connell has been seeking a transfer since the start of the year.

Former State goalkeeper Chris Wissink, who ranks with the best when he wants to play, is trying to get away. So is their long standing defender Ast Nelemans. Nelemans has been with the club for 14 years and last year gave his best performances ever.

Former State defender Than Paap, who has recovered from cartilage operations is apparently in no hurry to train. Coach Geoff Ogley is fed up and tried to move to Ascot recently. Others are also reported keen to move.

Windmills, however, have demanded that Ogley sticks to his contract.

If this sort of atmosphere prevails in the club, and they can still turn on the scintillating brand of soccer seen in flashes during the night series, what would they be capable of if they acted as an enthusiastic team?

From page 4,

division. But it was a proposal that passed, and, as from this year, there will be drastic changes in divisions as the numbers are gradually reduced.

The method put forward by the council was not accepted and a new approach will have to be worked out before the next meeting on March 7.

The number in the first division must be reduced, but the need for drastic reduction in the second division is not so vital. First division is the shop window and always will be, while the second division, important to soccer itself, will never attract the limelight.

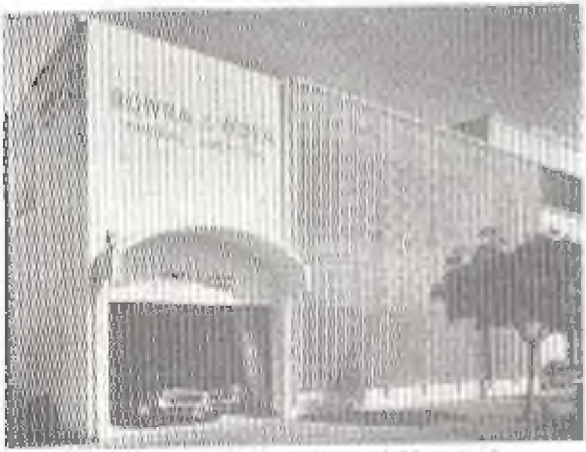
What is important is that the clubs in the second division are given sufficient number of matches to keep them going competitively for at least six months.

In a second division of ten, only 18 matches will be played, or just over four months of playing, with probably one, at the most two, more games in the D'Orsogna knockout cup.

This is not good enough. So either the division should remain large or suitable competitions meaning something must be found to make the season a reasonable length.

Naturally clubs will vote against the idea because of the danger of them dropping down to the Sunday amateur league. This thought should make them fight all the harder to retain Federation status, and so, in theory, raise the standard of the game.

John Devrindt of Belgium (all white, centre) heads the ball goalwards with Scotland goalkeeper Bobby Clarke (back to camera) well beaten, during the Soccer International in Aberdeen. The ball hit the post and spun away for a corner kick. — AAP Photo.



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Green aims HIGH

Green (note left hand) has no trouble grabbing this ball during a game against Juventus.

By Tom McKain

Adelaide, and probably Australia, could have its first coaching academy for goalkeepers if Victoria club player-coach John Green has his way.

After attending a coaching school, as a coach, organised by the SA Coaches' Federation, he has come up with his academy plan.

Green says he was amazed how many of the potential coaches on the course, organised to provide coaches for schoolboys, knew little about goalkeeping.

"Unless a lad is a natural, he could be in trouble later in his playing career," said Green.

But apart from young players, Green is interested in helping all goalkeepers, particularly Australian-born players, no matter which club they play for.

Green is a perfect example of what can be achieved by hard work and perseverance. After six years in Australia he has only now made the State squad.

Despite brilliant performances he was never seriously considered – because he has only SEVEN FINGERS! He lost three from his left hand before coming to Australia.

Green was signed by Arsenal and Blackpool, where he learnt his trade from Welsh international Jack Kelsey and England's George Farm.

Playing in the reserves he moved on to Bury, and then came the big break – Everton wanted him.

Two days before he was due to sign, Green lost his fingers in a grinding machine he was using during a "holiday job".

At 22 his soccer career seemed over.

He packed away his goalkeeper's jersey and returned to his home town club, Timperley, in Cheshire, where he became manager-coach.

"I played centre-forward, full-back, centre-half," recalls Green. "Anywhere but goal, just to get back in the game."

Six years ago, he decided to come to Australia and joined Lion, where his 6ft.2in., 13st.10lb. frame looked imposing at full back.

Then came a change of fortune.

Lion forward, John Lovell, who also came from Timperley and now playing in W.A., suggested Green try a comeback as a 'keeper.

"You can do better than some of them here, even if they had 40 fingers," said Lovell.

In a training game Green tentatively went between the posts again. After a couple of fumbled balls his confidence returned.

He worked night after night, learning to fill the gap left by the missing fingers, until he became one of the top 'keepers in the State.

The only flaw that can be found in his game is his need to punch the ball clear more often than other keepers. Otherwise he is brilliant, and he got his chance to get in the State side when Australian 'keeper Roger Romanowicz's deputy, Wally Fedorysyn, decided to rest from the night series.

Ironically it was young Fedorysyn who forced Green to leave Lion and join the Victoria club, where he was assured of a regular game in goal.

Green took over as Victoria's player-coach in 1971.

Apart from his work with the S.A. coaches' Federation, Green has been approached by several first division goalkeepers to give them workouts and advice.

"Now as a coach, I realise just how little time club coaches have to spend with their goalkeepers," said Green.

"I would be willing to organise sessions for senior 'keepers, no matter what club they belong to, as long as they were willing to learn.

"Without being bombastic, I can see so many faults which could easily be cured with the right training methods and enough time.

"I already have some name keepers asking me for advice on the quiet, but I see no harm in coming out into the open. After all, it is going to benefit the game.

"As far as the youngsters are concerned, I hope to get something going for them in a big way, and get the help of other goalkeepers – current players, or some who have retired and are now only spectators."

Green said that one aspect of schoolboy soccer which upset him was the old attitude of: "bung him in goal, he can't play anywhere else anyway".

"Right from the start lads must be made to realise that a goalkeeper is one of the most important players in any team," said Green.

"He is probably the only specialist in the game, and the only player in a team who often is faced with decisions which can win or lose a match.

"A striker can get all the glamour he wants smashing in goals, but if he hasn't got a good 'keeper at the other end of the field his scoring will do the club no good".

The SA Coaches' Federation is interested in Green's scheme and have already put him on their staff to deal with all aspects of goalkeeping during coaching courses, seminars and school clinics.

And if Green gets enough pupils they will help establish his academy.

A Hakoah representative from Sydney watched Green play against Juventus recently and at the time this was written was trying to sign him.

VICSCENE

By Andrew James

COLTS LEAGUE

Officials of the fast growing Box Hill club have come up with the great idea that the State league juniors competition be re-named Colts League.

This name, if adopted, should give much greater identification to the new competition which came so close to foundering in a bog of apathy and indifference last season.

That it goes into a second season at all, is thanks to people like Kurt Defris (Hakoah) the competition's hard-working chairman. But the total support of all clubs is needed to get the show on the road in a big way.

Clubs like Melbourne and Alexander almost wrecked the competition last season. Their continued indifference could do so this year. Melbourne, with a vigorous new junior set-up seem to have solved their problems, but Alexander did not even show up for the key special meeting held recently. Hardly a good omen.

It was good to see active support from John Van Hoboken (Ringwood) and Tony Kovac (Footscray) balancing this apathy. With active ideas men like these taking a close interest, things could really hum for the Colts in 1972.

By the way, in addition to the proposed Under-16 and Under-14 Colt Leagues, they plan to introduce an Under-12 League if enough interest can be whipped up.

This State League Colts competition is completely seperate from the huge junior set-up being master-minded by the junior bosses of Victoria and which should provide the base for the games expansion in the Southern State.

UPPER-CLASS GROUNDS

The minimum standard of grounds for State League teams shall be Class B. So states the newly-issued rules of the V.S.F.

As a matter of interest, just how many State League Clubs have grounds that qualify on all counts? Of course, Olympic Park and Middle Park walk it in. They have facilities the equal of and superior to most in the nation.

But what about the other grounds?

Schintler Reserve — Home of the mighty Blues — Footscray. Shared also by George Cross. Many improvements have been made and are scheduled for this ground, but it still misses out on several counts. Facilities for the referees do not meet the required standard and the press are catered for only by a telephone in the referees' dressing room, which is locked during the game to protect their property. Great! But, not to worry, just outside there is a public phone box, always assuming you have five cents and providing that vandals haven't ripped the cables out!

Maribyrnong Reserve — This home of Polonia has perhaps the most imposing entrance of the lot. But again press facilities do not measure up to any standard at all. They have a phone in the home team dressing room and that's the lot!

Jubilee Park — This ground laid out by John Van Hoboken for his Ringwood City team is a little gem. Flagpoles by the dozen. Loudspeakers all over the place — even floodlights! A great grandstand and press facilities, though a little cramped at times, are excellent in every other way.

Wembly Park — Box Hill have been on short rations from their local council for years and the lack of any real facilities on this ground speaks volumes for the elasticity applied to the interpretation of VSF rules. The ground would scarcely measure up on any count. The playing surface is dangerous at times and unplayable on other occasions. Facilities are basic and rudimentary. But a ray of sunshine appears to be coming. The local council has given the go ahead for improvement that should lift the ground to a respectable level.

STRIKE PLAYS HAVOC

The S.E.C. power strike played havoc with Victorian soccer, wrecking the tail-end fixtures of the Slovan—Cruzeiro tour and forcing the postponement of two rounds of the money-spinning summer cup.

With the powerful Olympic Park floodlights out of action, with pay-packets almost non-existent for thousands of fans and with severely-curtailed train and tram services, the situation looked bleak indeed.

Acting quickly, George Wallace, secretary of the V.S.F., swiftly re-arranged the already crowded fixture list brilliantly with a series of moves that will enable the final to take place as planned.

Details of the key re-arranged fixtures are:—

1st Semi-Final — Friday 3rd March
2nd Semi-Final — Sunday 5th March
Final — Friday 10th March

BIG DATES

Croatia steal the march when the 1972 State League season gets underway with their floodlit home game versus George Cross at Olympic Park on Friday 17th March. Newly-promoted Keilor clash with Ringwood at home, whilst Fitzroy United play Juventus at Middle Park in the two Saturday games.

Sunday sees the remaining three 1st Round fixtures with South Melbourne away to Footscray in what is sure to be the match of the day, Hakoah and Melbourne meet in a Middle Park Derby, and Polonia are at home to Box Hill.

The preliminary rounds of the Dockerty Cup get underway the same weekend, with 32 teams competing. All games are laid down for the Saturday with any replays to take place the following day.

The last round of the State League season will take place on the weekend August 26-27th.

The planned Inter-State competition between the top four clubs of New South Wales and Victoria will start the following weekend, with the finals being played over the weekend September 23rd—24th.

The first main round of the Dockerty Cup will take place on four grounds over the weekend October 7th—8th. With the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final occupying the next three weekends.

Coincidentally with the planned Inter-State competition, a separate round-robin will take place between the last eight teams in the State League. The format will be similar to that of the summer cup, with two sections, A and B, two semi-finals and a final.

The Metropolitan League starts the season with Round 1 on Saturday, 1st April. Didn't anybody tell them that was April Fools Day?

JUVE—JUVE

With the surprise signing of John Perrin from Juventus (S.A.), Melbourne's Juventus have taken early action to recover from the rot that set in during the 1971 season.

Fans will also be pleased with the news that Goodwin, Irvine, Webster and Smart have all returned to the fold. At one time there were rumours that threatened Juventus with a revolt similar to the one which destroyed George Cross for much of last year.

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Joe Corrigan, Manchester City goalkeeper, leaps to pluck the ball off the head of Ray Kennedy of Arsenal — AAP Photo

SOCCER SCENE

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«Sydney Sidelines»

by Glyn Griffiths

One of the most surprising transfer deals in recent weeks took Marconi Fairfield's veteran winger Keith Jones to Western Suburbs.

Jones, a consistently useful forward when he was with Hakoah some years ago, appeared to have left first division soccer for good when he dropped down a class and moved to Marconi. When Marconi were promoted, Jones did not really figure in this ambitious club's plans — and in 1971, the Welshman played few games.

It will, indeed, be a great achievement by Keith Jones if he can win, and hold, a regular place in Wests' forward line. He is in his middle 30s, but having looked after himself, he is physically a very "young" veteran.

Wests, however, are certain to be criticised if they give Keith Jones priority over the several promising youngsters who did so well for the team last year.

* * * * *

Another Western Suburbs signing which took Sydney by surprise was the $3,600 deal involving Nick McCallum of Melita. McCallum, like Keith Jones, played few matches last year. Melita had virtually written off the large fee they had paid George Cross (Melbourne) for McCallum when the player quit Sydney soccer to visit his sick father in Scotland.

After his initial run with his new club, McCallum was described by a Wests' official as: "about one-third fit."

So it may be some time before Western Suburbs get any real return for their large investment in Nick McCallum.

St. George-Budapest's forward Willie Hamilton outleaps Ryde goalkeeper Micke Cajkusic (right) and centre-half Fedor Rodic (nearest the camera) in a championship clash.

* * *

Sutherland Shire, promoted this year to first division, are not nearly as bad as their critics insist.

The Shire, having collected a few bad defeats in pre-season trial matches, were described as the biggest certainties of all time for relegation.

I did not agree with that gloomy forecast and events in the summer cup justified my view.

Sutherland lost their first two cup games, to Auburn and Western Suburbs, yet still managed to make some friends by the standard of their football, and the enthusiasm they put into it. In fact, both games might have been won, with luck.

Then Sutherland ran rings around South Sydney for their first victory, and held mighty Hakoah to an excellent 2-2 draw.

All of a sudden, Sydney fans are realising that Sutherland, under the expert guidance of a talented coach, Mike Johnson, have sufficient skill to keep well clear of the dreaded relegation zone when the premiership starts.

* * *

South Coast United, who admitted they were desperately short of talented players, are another team to bring smiles to their supporters' faces.

During the close season, Coast sold internationals Max Tolson and Peter Wilson to Marconi Fairfield. They also lost John McGunnigle and Brian Harvey, who went to Hong Kong for a brief stay and failed to return to Sydney.

The chronic shortage of good players indicated that Coast would be struggling to hang on to first division status, but the club played a master stroke by engaging NSW State coach Les Scheinflug to take charge of their team.

Even an ordinary side can look useful in the right hands. Scheinflug has steered South Coast to two wins and a draw in their first four cup matches.

Coast are unlikely to play any part in the race for premiership honours — but the odds against relegation for the team have shrunk heartening since Scheinflug's appointment.

* * *

Defender Malcolm Clarke, who toured Australia with Cardiff City in 1968, is due to make a return visit — and sign for Apia Leichhardt. Clarke has been given a free transfer by Hartlepools United.

* * *

Friday, February 25, was a red letter day for last year's grand final winners, St. George Budapest.

On that day, Saints celebrated their 15th anniversary, with a ball and other festivities at their magnificent Mortdale headquarters.

Master of Ceremonies was ABC soccer commentator, Martin Royal.

* * *

Ray Gardiner, Hakoah's 21-year-old wing-half star, must be one of the unluckiest players in Australia.

Ever since Gardiner arrived in Sydney as a 17-year-old from Glasgow, his career has been bedevilled by injuries. A broken leg, cartilage operations and ligament worries have caused Gardiner to miss more matches than he has played in.

All set to make his comeback this year, and selected for the NSW squad to play in Adelaide, Gardiner broke down in Hakoah's third round cup match.

Latest report is that he may have to enter hospital for another cartilage operation. Ray Gardiner has every right to complain that nothing ever goes right for him.

Brazilian wizard Roberto about to pounce on a pass from teammate Lopes and score one of Cruzeiro's goals in the match against Czech champions Slovan Bratislava. Cruzeiro won 3-0.

From Page 3.

No doubt when the 1974 World Cup is played in West Germany, Dirceu Lopes will be one of the key members of Brazil's squad. At 22, he has the soccer world at his [illegible] feet.

If Cruzeiro gave value for money, that is more than can be said about Slovan Bratislava.

Admittedly, they lost the services of probably their greatest player, Karol Jokl, who was unlucky enough to break his ankle in Slovan's opening game against Marconi Fairfield. Certainly, Jokl was a big loss, yet this did not explain the ease of Cruzeiro's victory against Slovan, or even Marconi's achievement in holding the Slovaks to a draw.

Visits to Australia by top Czechoslovakian teams in recent years seem to indicate that, even though touring sides from that country do not demand big match fees, they are adequately rewarded for the entertainment they provide.

* * *

Watching speedy Joe Alagic tearing South Coast's defence to pieces in a recent match, I wondered just what this good Yugal Ryde winger has to do to get onside with State and national selectors.

Alagic has appeared occasionally in representative squads, but he has never been able to hold a regular place. Yet week after week, he turns in dynamic performances for Ryde in club soccer.

Joe Alagic probably thinks his face doesn't fit. He has good cause for thinking so.

* * *

Marconi Fairfield president Carlo Zaccariota is unhappy about the way summer cup gate receipts are distributed.

At Bossley Park, Marconi consistently attracted crowds of 5,000 to 6,000 to the Cup. This should have earned the club handsome profits, but Mr Zaccariota complained: "We've got only a few hundred dollars out of it . . . after others got their cut."

In this competition, the host team is poorly rewarded, because the NSW Federation tries to spread the goodies around."

At least, Marconi should be making a packet through bar sales and poker machines.

JUNIORS GET BOOST

by Pertinax

Junior soccer in NSW received one of its biggest boosts ever with the announcement of a donation of $50,000, to be spread over the next three years.

Pepsi Cola, who already sponsor the Champion of Champions tournament in the State, have announce the new grant.

NSW Amateur Federation secretary, Brian Emery, believes that most of the money will go towards coaching schemes in connection with the [illegible] coaching academy.

Coaching for the juniors has always been a problem, with most of the assistance being given by parents and former players whose enthusiasm is long, but unfortunately their knowledge is slim.

The subject of juniors was also a topic for discussion during the recent visit of Dr Joao Havelange, president of the Brazilian Confederation of Sports.

Sydney journalists were told that formation of national youth teams for matches against overseas sides would be our best possible insurance for the future.

On the question of grounds, Dr Havelange said that if he were elected FIFA president, he would offer financial help to Australia. He said if an Australian city were to build a 50,000-spectator stadium, FIFA could help with the erection of lighting to subsidise the cost. This is part of his plan to use FIFA money to help countries under-developed in soccer and to try to raise their standard.

Dr Havelange, who is a major transport employer in Brazil, has been nominated by the American Confederation as a candidate for the presidency of FIFA, which is currently held by Sir Stanley Rous.

TRIP WAS BIG SUCCESS

says Roger Hunter

Australian Soccer Federation secretary Brian Le Fevre arrived back in Sydney recently after a round-world trip which should have significant benefits to the code here.

Le Fevre's first task in Britain was to finalise arrangements for tours of Australia by British clubs in 1972. He announced that Dundee would arrive in May, followed by Wolverhampton Wanderers in June. Dundee, placed fifth in the Scottish first division, will restrict their tour to Eastern venues — in fact Adelaide and Perth spectators will not see them.

This must be very disappointing for the many exiled Scots in those cities, but no doubt the ASF has reasons for neglecting Adelaide and Perth.

Dundee's tour itinerary is:

May 14 v Victoria in Melbourne
May 20 v A.C.T. in Canberra
May 21 v Queensland in Brisbane
May 24 opponents and venue not decided
May 28 v N.S.W. in Sydney

Dundee will prove ideal opposition for representative teams in this so-called emerging soccer nation of ours — even though I would like to have seen them up against the Australian national side. The big shots of Scottish soccer this season, Celtic, Aberdeen and Rangers, would have been too strong for Australian opposition but fifth-placed Dundee cannot be regarded as unbeatable. No doubt, the Scottish side will expect to win all matches handsomely. We must try to cut them down to size.

The Wolverhampton Wanderers tour will take in all major cities in Australia even though it is being condensed into only 11 days. These are the match dates:—

June 10 v Australia in Sydney
June 11 v Australia in Melbourne
June 14 v Queensland in Brisbane
June 17 v S.A. in Adelaide
June 18 v W.A. in Perth

It is costing the ASF about $30,000 to bring the Wolves here and quite a bit less for the Dundee tour.

In the circumstances, the tourists should be able to help the ASF balance its books for the year. A couple of big attendances will reimburse the Federation for its tour outlay, leaving other fixtures to provide the profits.

Cash outlay has been kept down mainly through the willingness of tour teams to play matches on successive days. Most big tours are spread over three or four weeks and the hotel bills can mount up alarmingly when that happens.

Wolves may feel two games in a 24 hour period will not tax their players unduly, and with full-time professionals, such an assignment need not be too fearsome.

Borussia Moenchengladbach, the attractive West German team, had to decline a tour of Australia because the Olympic Games in Munich have caused some rearrangements of the normal soccer program in Germany this year.

While he was abroad, Le Fevre also put in some useful spade work with FIFA in connection with Australia's elimination matches for the 1974 World Cup. Le Fevre was in Beirut for a meeting of the FIFA World Cup committee. He stressed he was there merely as an observer, but it did give him the opportunity to meet several people and let them know that Australia would not be messed about this time. FIFA should know well enough now that we will not tolerate being shovelled around the world just to avoid political differences among other nations in our Group.

In 1969, the Australian national team toiled through Asia, Africa and Europe before being eliminated at the final World Cup hurdle by Israel. It was travel exhaustion as much as soccer capabilities which dumped Australia from that Cup competition.

On April 27, in Bangkok, the Asian Confederation will meet to discuss the qualifying matches for the 1974 World Cup. Le Fevre, and ASF president Arthur George will be in Thailand for that meeting and they will not go ready to take the scraps from Asia's table.

It will be tough enough beating the Asian countries on the field, without taking a caning from them at the conference table. However, fearing the strength of Australian soccer, the Asians will not be slow to make our qualifying passage to the Cup as difficult as possible.

The sooner Australia is accepted as full and worthy members of the Asian Confederation the better. And, on his overseas wanderings, Le Fevre, also put in some work on this important matter.

He has been assured by FIFA that the game's ruling body will have no objections to Australia lodging an application to join Asia. In fact, Australia has been given the green light to write to all Asian nations suggesting such a move.

Le Fevre said "I understand Sir Stanley Rous, as president of FIFA, is already working on a plan to make changes in the various Confederations. But this may take several years to bear fruit and Sir Stanley realises Australia cannot wait that long for some action."

Alan Gilzean (third from right) of Tottenham Hotspurs, scores his team's first goal in their match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at White Hart Lane. Other players (from left) are Phil Parkes Wolves goalie whose face is almost hidden as the ball speeds into the net, Martin Chivers and Alan Mullery of Spurs, John McAlle of Wolves, Gilzean, Neighbour (No.7) of Spurs and Mike Bailey, Wolves captain. AAP Photo.

Wolverhampton Wanderers' [illegible] Taylor (left) is beaten by Martin Chivers of Tottenham Hotspur [illegible] a heading duel during the first division soccer match at White Hart Lane. – AAP Photo.

Wolves in action . . .

Marconi emerges as a strong force

By Glyn Griffiths

Anyone doubting the emergence of Marconi Fairfield as a power in Sydney soccer had all such doubts erased by Marconi's excellent performances in the early rounds of the summer cup.

Marconi's first four matches yielded four wins, with a goal tally of eight for and one against. Obviously the close season signings of Peter Wilson and Max Tolson, plus the appointment of national coach Rale Rasic, have made a tremendous difference to Marconi's fortunes.

Top sides like Hakoah and Western Suburbs were well beaten by Rasic's "Fairfield Furies", and Auburn and South Sydney also failed to make any impression. In fact, with only three matches played, Marconi were rated favourites for the 1972 premiership.

This is a great achievement, bearing in mind the crippling blow to Marconi's defence cause by injuries to full-backs John Roche and Col Curran. Roche and Curran were outstanding for Australia on the 1970 world tour, yet they have been replaced by the young Stewart Robertson and Barry Jones — and have hardly been missed.

No other team in the cup has turned in so many excellent performances. Hakoah struggled along, looking nothing like the all-conquering side of last year, Western Suburbs seemed out of touch, and St. George Budapest, with good games and poor ones, were unable to produce any consistency from their matches.

Two teams, however, got much better results than most people expected. Sutherland Shire and South Coast United can look back on the cup, satisfied that they achieved far more than their many detractors imagined possible.

Possibly the best game [illegible] preliminary rounds was the meeting of Marconi and Wests, won by Marconi 3-1. In the first half, the Fairfield side threatened to run Wests off their feet, and nobody begrudged Marconi the 2-0 lead built up against a strangely vulnerable Wests defence. After the interval, however, the picture changed dramatically.

Wests came out determined to tighten up in defence, and this was done right from the whistle. As if annoyed at themselves for giving Marconi two soft first-half goals, Wests got on top of Marconi's keen front line, and snuffed out all danger. Wests forwards, too, started to show something at last. It wasn't surprising when Greg Byles scored for Wests to make it 2-1. For the next 10 minutes, Western Suburbs were on top, and were unlucky not to score again. But, like the good team they are, Marconi hit back once more, snapping up a poor clearance from George Ki[illegible], and easing into an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

The crowd loved every minute of this match, even if Wests defenders were not so happy about it. Goalkeeper Ross Kelly was to blame for Marconi's first goal, and poor marking allowed Max Tolson to score the second one very simply. Three defensive errors gave Marconi three match winning goals. But that's football. If nobody ever made a mistake, there would never be any goals.

One thing cannot be denied. If the standard of soccer in the Marconi v Wests match, and in most other cup matches, is maintained in the premiership, Sydney soccer is in for a great year.

* * *

Two top-class wingers are expected to join Pan Hellenic in the next week or two — and they won't cost the club a cent.

The players are Terry Thorne and Vic Povey. Both have been in England and there were fears that they might stay there. However, Hellenic coach Joe Vlasits says Thorne and Povey are both on their way back, and he'll be delighted to see them appearing in Hellenic's blue and white jerseys.

VIP VISITOR HAD A MISSION

by Roger Hunter

One of the most important administrators in world soccer visited Australia last month.

The soccer VIP, who jetted in as part of a world tour, was Joaoa Havelange, president of the Brazilian Sporting Federation, who is regarded in some quarters as president-elect of FIFA. In 1974 Senor Havelange will attempt to unseat Sir Stanley Rous as the "Mr Soccer" of FIFA, and it appears the Brazilian will have an excellent chance of winning the election.

What was Joaoa Havelange doing in Australia?

Let's not kid ourselves. He was here for the same reason he was visiting many other countries on his trip — to lobby for votes for the FIFA presidency. There is nothing wrong in that, of course. And, judging by some of the matters he discussed at a Sydney press conference, Senor Havelange would make a good FIFA president.

Listen to some of his comments:

"If I am elected president of FIFA, I shall make every effort to widen the World Cup final stages, with 24, not 16, competing nations. If this comes about, the Oceania Confederation would be guaranteed one place in the World Cup final stages.

"It is wrong for Asia to pick a team for the mini World Cup in Brazil this year without giving a chance to some Australian players. Even though Australia is not in the Asian body, I shall recommend that your players be considered.

"If I am lucky enough to be FIFA president, I shall make sure that some of the world's soccer wealth is spread around. I have a particular worry about what might be called the under developed soccer countries and believe they should be given every assistance to get big. Australia comes into this category.

"During my stay in Australia I want to talk seriously, not just socially, to your top administrators to discover your problems and what can be done to put them right."

Even if it was a well-calculated visit, Senor Havelange's stay in Australia must have done the game here a power of good. It is essential that leaders of the soccer world should make contact with Australian officials, and for this reason alone, the Brazilian visitor was more than welcome.

On the other hand, despite the good impression he made here, Senor Havelange may be battling to get Australia's vote in FIFA's presidential election. There are strong ties connecting Australia with Britain, and British Sir Stanley Rous has many friends here. Rous has proved himself an excellent president, and even though he failed [illegible] our qualifying [illegible] the 1970 World Cup, Sir Stanley has a soft spot for soccer in Australia. Would Senor Havelange be an even better friend to us? That is a difficult one to answer.

One thing is certain: this dedicated, friendly Brazilian, with the [illegible] background of Olympic participation in swimming and water polo, has the stature to take over as "Mr Soccer".

He claims he did not want to stand in opposition to the reigning president because: "Sir Stanley Rous is a great friend of mine. I regard him with as much affection as I have for my family. But so many people wanted me to contest the presidency that I agreed to stand."

Brazil must be regarded as the top country in the world as far as soccer is concerned. Brazilian players have proved three times since the war that they are the greatest. It is unthinkable that a nation making such playing progress in the code, does not also have excellent officials off the field.

Let us not forget, as Joaoa Havelange pointed out, that in Brazil there are 12 stadiums capable of accommodating crowds of between 50,000 and 200,000. The days when Europeans used to look down on South Americans have long gone. Now every country has to look up, because Brazil has taught us in many ways what this great sport is all about.

For this reason, SOCCER SCENE wishes Joaoa Havelange every success in his bid to become FIFA president. If Sir Stanley Rous must go, he could not have a more capable successor.

Experiment Foiled

Everyone in W.A. is disappointed, upset or angry that the private promoters of the Slovan Bratislava tour of Australia didn't complete their programme by playing in W.A.

The experiences of this episode should be a warning to the various State administrations and the Australian Soccer Federation to either prevent further private promotions, or to gain strong guarantees that, when a tour is planned, hard, fast and binding contracts be submitted for every match before the tour begins.

While the W.A. Federation lost little money on the venture, it still should not be allowed to carry the financial burden that was incurred by the cancellation of its game with Slovan.

One aspect of this particular match that was awaited with interest was the experiment by State coach John Fisher in selecting 16-year-old Gary Marocchi as a full-back. Marocchi, still a junior, has only played two games for his senior club side Azzurri.

On both occasions, his selection was in the top four cup and night series matches, after Azzurri had ceased to be a contender for these titles. His selection in the club side on those occasions was treated as something of an experiment, to start giving him a taste of senior soccer.

Fisher, like everyone else, is impressed with the skill and potential of the lad, and during State trails, he was brought in to blood him further. Excellent performances in these trials brought the surprising State selection.

Would Marocchi have overcome his lack of experience and youth or would the Czechoslovakians have seriously damaged his confidence?

This we don't know at the moment. But, who knows, maybe he may still gain selection against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

If he does, would he be the youngest player ever to have been selected in a State or national side in Australia?

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THOMPSON FUND

A simple attempt to head a corner by Olympic defender Sandy Thomson resulted in him accidentally colliding with Bayswater United goalkeeper Saverio Modeschi during a W.A. night series game.

Lying in agony after crashing to the ground, Thomson had to be carried off on a stretcher.

Later, a hospital bulletin said that he would have to have his spleen removed. A nasty operation, but one that eventually would not interfere with his playing career.

However, next day, word leaked out, and was quickly confirmed, that it was not the spleen, but a kidney that was removed.

Thomson (29), one of Olympic's reliable players, will not play again.

The club immediately started a Sandy Thomson testimonial fund, and SOCCER SCENE along with every soccer fan wishes him a speedy recovery. We hope that he will be seen around the grounds in some capacity.

For Olympic, this loss on top of that of dynamic Frank Cutts has cut a big hole in the plans of new London coach Peter Saunno.

It was believed that Cutts would not be able to play again after undergoing an operation for a bad back injury, but special treatment has produced fast healing and he is already in light training. Coach Saunno hopes that Cutts will be able to play soon after the start of the winter season.

Donations to the Sandy Thomson Testimonial Fund can be sent care of Con Papamarcos, secretary Olympic Soccer Club, 27 Anzac Road, Mt.Hawthorn W.A. 6016.

GOOD RESULTS

Alemannia-Melville's trainer, Val McKenzie, is shaping up a great team. The results of recent friendly matches speak for themselves, with wins against South Perth 6-0, Graylands 1-0, Dalmatinac 4-3, Kelmscott 11-6, and Perth City 7-1.

These results augur well for the club's first season in W.A. Soccer Federation ranks.

Alemannia played successfully last season in the amateur league, culminating in winning the Amateur League Cup and gaining promotion to the W.A.S.F. The club has been strengthened by a number of well-known players such as Dennis Yeoman, Bill Youngson, Ian McLay, George McSkimming and others. The backbone of the team, however, is still made up by the Gross brothers. All spearheading the attack, Franz, Josef, and possibly the brilliant Ludwig, together with the young and talented Erwin as standby. The role of "libero" and sweeper will most likely be played by Juergen Popp, outstanding although argumentative, from Nuremberg, formerly Germany's [illegible] club.

The only position that does not appear to have been filled yet is that of goalie. Anybody interested? Phone 98-1807.

The success of Alemannia, who are to make its debut in the second division, will largely depend on the question of how much players will accept teachings and words of their trainer.

Backed and sponsored by the well-known and active Rhein Donau Club of Melville, the team could finish in the top four. The mainly German-Scottish European combination could provide a very strong challenge to such teams as Stirling City and Cockburn, who have strong hopes of heading the league.

COACH SCOOP

W.A. second division club Swan Athletic, late in appointing a coach for the 1972 season, made a major capture that should give them every chance of returning to the first division next year.

Their hesitation in appointing someone has led to them gaining the services of George McWilliam, English F.A. coaching certificate holder.

Such certified men are unheard of in W.A. and rare in Australia.

McWilliam, Manchester born, gained his full badge under Walter Winterbottom in 1961, but since then has worked with Alan Wade, the present English director of coaching.

Most of his experience has been with British army teams and running army physical training schools. But, as the present State coach John Fisher said "George knows everything there is to know about the modern game and if he is not snapped up soon then a top talent will be going to waste."

Swan Athletic, who lost the services of former Polish international Zyggie Pieda to first division side, Kiev, have stepped in to help McWilliam find a new job and house in the Swan area.

Swan Athletic, badly mauled about last season, now have a great number of youngsters ready to gain the full benefit of a top coach.

John Perin, who transferred from Juventus Adelaide to Juventus Melbourne, makes it look easy as he takes the ball clear of a Cardiff City player.

Indoor Soccer was given a big boost in West Germany when more than 50,000 spectators attended [illegible] during the winter Bundesliga break. While the spectators' darling, Gerd Mueller (second from left) crashes one a goal from long range [illegible] a good game [illegible] of Tennis Borussia Berlin must concede defeat. [illegible] really had a lot to shout about because more than 30 internationals from four [illegible] division were taking part. Six clubs took part in the tournament, which was won by Hertha BSC Berlin [illegible] Experts thought [illegible] indoor football has a chance of really catching on in the way that handball has already become popular.

Kickers Show Strength

from Dieter Schmidt

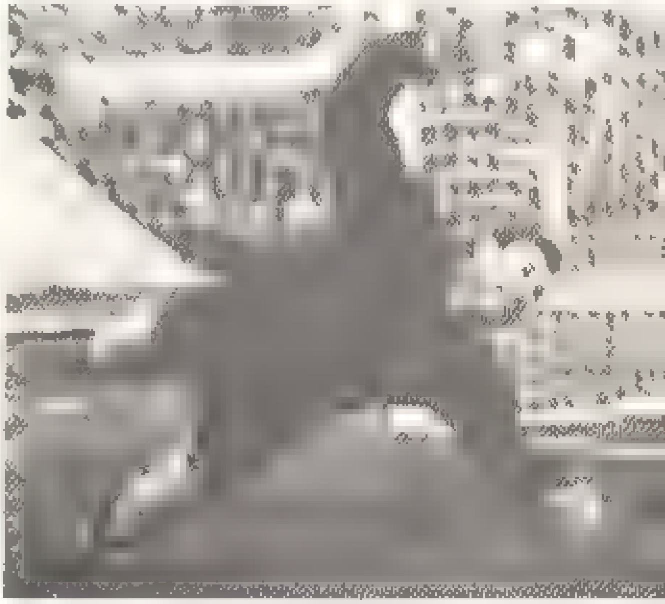
The strength of Kickers Offenbach — relegated from the West German Bundesliga last year and punished in the Bundesliga scandal by being ineligible for promotion back into the top league for two years – is being shown in the German F.A. Cup matches.

They are the only non-Bundesliga club among the last 16 and proved that their position was no fluke — with a 3-1 home win against IFC Koeln. If they can keep up this form in the second leg they will move into the quarter finals, due to be played on April 1 and 5.

Results of the first leg of the last 16 were

Werder Bremen b Hamburger SV	4-2
Eintract Braunschweig d Bayern Muenchen	0-0
Moenchengladbach b Eintract Frankfurt	4-2
Hannover 1896 d VfL Bochum	0-0
Kickers Offenbach b IFC Koeln	3-1
VfB Stuttgart b IFC Kaiserlautern	4-3
MSV Duisburg d Rot-Weiss Oberhausen	2-2
Fortuna Duesseldorf d FC Schalke 04	1-1

* * * *



Retired star Russian goalkeeper Lev Yashin (opposite), for many years considered to have been the best 'keeper in the world, has been invited to play in Uwe Seeler's testimonial match in Hamburg on May 1. Other world stars to have been invited include Pele and Eusebio.

Those who have already accepted include Gordon Banks, Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst, Bobby Charlton, George Best, Dennis Law, Gemmell, John Cruyff (Holland), Paul van Himst (Belgium), Karlheinz Schnellinger (Germany), Gianni Rivera (Italy), Giacinto Facchetti (Italy), Djajic (Yugoslavia) and Bene (Hungary).

BOWYER STARS FOR ORIENT

Ian Bowyer, who toured Australia with Manchester City in 1970, is starring with Orient in the English second division. Sold to Orient after an unhappy period in which the Maine Road boys had made his life miserable, this $60,000 signing has now gone up in value.

Anyone wanting the red-haired goal-scoring machine will have to fork out somewhere in the region of $300,000 plus to gain his services.

Orient manager George Petchey, who is taking the side from a struggling second division club to the threshold of promotion, is looking to 1972-73 as the season that first division status may come within their reach.

Bowyer, who has notched 20 goals this year, is part of Petchey's plans, but they could be dashed if first division clubs continue to show interest in him.

Cardiff City, another of the teams to tour Australia in the 60s, are struggling to avoid the terrible drop to the division below. Last season, Cardiff were pipped for promotion to the first division.

Manager Jimmy Scoular has set his lads a target of 17 points from the last 16 matches to get out of trouble. So far, Cardiff have had only six wins from the past 26 matches, and if they fail to improve on this disastrous record, they will drop to third division, the first time in 25 years that they have been out of the top two divisions.

For the players, relegation will bring drastic wage cuts because a clause in their contracts stipulates such action if the club drops to the third division.

League gates in England are up. But officials are being cautious in making any exuberant predictions for the future.

The average attendance for the four divisions this season has been 15,081, an improvement of 518 on last season. Only the second division failed to better last year's figures.

A continuance of the trend should produce somewhere around [illegible] this season, compared with 28,194,146 last season.

The averages for the divisions are: first [illegible] (31,361), second 13,848 (15,28[illegible]), third 8,033 (8,132), fourth 8,053 (5047).

John McCormick (left) and Mel Blyth, [illegible] of Crystal Palace, sandwiched their own goalie, John Jackson and Spurs' Mike England [illegible] Crystal Palace first division spurs won 3-0. AAP —AP — CABLEPHOTO.

Latest Results, League Points From Europe

WEST GERMANY

Hannover b Braunschweig	[illegible]-0
Duisburg b Berlin	2-0
Bayern b Kaiserslautern	4-[illegible]
Bielefeld b Bremen	1-0
Hamburg d Duesseldorf	3-3
Frankfurt b Dortmund	[illegible]-2
Schalke b Koeln	1-0
Moenchen b Oberhausen	7-0
Moenchengladbach b Stuttgart	1-0

Standings after Feb. 20:

FC Schalke 04	34
FC Bayern Muenchen	32
Borussia Moenchengladbach	30
FC Koeln	23
Eintracht Frankfurt	23
Hertha BSC Berlin	23
Hamburger SV	22
FC Kaiserslautern	21
VfB Stuttgart	21
VfL Bochum	21
Werder Bremen	20
Eintracht Braunschweig	19
MSV Duisburg	19
Fortuna Duesseldorf	6
Hannover 96	12
Borussia Dortmund	12
Arminia Bielefeld	11
Rot-Weiss Oberhausen	11

ITALY

Torino b Cagliari	2-1
Catanzaro b Sampdoria	1-0
Fiorentina b Atalanta	2-0
Bologna b Vicenza	3-2
Inter Milan d AS Roma	[illegible]
Juventus d AC Milan	1-1
Mantova b Verona	1-0
Napoli b Varese	3-0

Standings after Feb. 20:

Juventus	28
AC Milan	26
Cagliari	2[illegible]
Fiorentina	25
Torino	25
Inter Milan	24
AS Roma	23
Napoli	22
Sampdoria	18
Bologna	16
Atalanta	15
Catanzaro	14
Vicenza	13
Verona	13
Mantova	11
Varese	6

PORTUGAL

Academica d Sporting	3-3
Atletico d Porto	1-1
Tomar b Beira Mar	2-0
Leixoes b Farense	1-0
Guimaraes d Belenenses	1-1
Boavista d Setubal	1-1
CUF b Barreirense	2-0
Benfica b Tirsense	7-0

Standings after Feb. 20:

Benfica	35
Setubal	30
Sporting	28
CUF Barreiro	25
FC Porto	23
Belenenses	21
Beira Mar	20
Guimaraes	19
FC Farense	17
Barreirense	17
Tomar	17
Academica	15
Leixoes	15
Atletico Lisbon	14
Boavista	13
FC Tirsense	13

GREECE

AEK b Egaleo	2-1
Heraklis b Veria	2-0
Kavala b O. Nicosia	1-0
Panionios b Apollon	2-1
PAOK b Ethnikos	1-0
Pierikos b O. Volos	[illegible]-0
Panachaiki b Trikala	1-0
Fostir d Aris	0-0
O. Pireaus d Panathinaikos	0-0

Standings after Feb. 20:

Panathinaikos	52
Olympiakos Piraeus	48
Aris Salonika	45
AEK Athens	4[illegible]
PAOK Salonika	4[illegible]
Heraclis	43
Panachaiki	40
Olympiakos Volos	39
Kavala	38
Panionios	37
Trikala	36
Ethnikos	36
Apollon Athens	35
Aigaleo	35
Fostir Athens	33
Veria	33
Pierikos	32
Olympiakos Nicosia	28

SPAIN

Malaga d Cordoba	2-2
Real Sociedad b Burgos	2-0
Espanol b Sevilla	2-0
Sporting b Granada	2-0
Atl. Madrid d Barcelona	1-1
Real Betis b Valencia	1-0
Celta b Atl. Bilbao	2-0
Real Madrid b Sabadell	2-[illegible]

READER COMMENTS

INTERSTATE COMPETITION

SIRS: I enclose $3 for my subscription to SOCCER SCENE. I am 16 years old and have been living in Australia for only four months, after migrating from England.

May I congratulate you on producing a magazine which gives a true picture of Australian soccer, as seen through all States.

One thought has struck me. There is a need for an Interstate competition, similar to cricket's Sheffield Shield competition. Surely this would aid national team selection and help to improve the standards of the weaker soccer-playing States. Each State could play the others at home one season and away the next, with the results culminating.

I eagerly await the next issue of SOCCER SCENE.
R. Ellis, Box Hill North, Victoria.

"GET BETTER COACHES"

Coming back from a 14-month stay in Europe and watching in this time not only the top soccer games, but also the training sessions of these super teams, one can't help but make comparisons with local soccer.

That our standard of play is lower than in Europe, we all know and understand.

The Dutch team P.S.V. who, last year, finished third behind Ajax and Feyenoord in the top league made a tour of Indonesia recently. Their first game was in Djakarta against the Indonesian national team and they beat them 8—1. The second game in Medan (the mecca of soccer in Indonesia) finished in a 7—0 win for the Dutch team and their last game was a smashing 7—1 win. A total score out of three games of 22—2.

These results must say something to everyone interested in soccer in W.A., because we know the strength of Indonesian soccer compared to our own.

Again, we understand that our standard can't be as high as the 100% professionals of Europe but does the difference in class have to be as great as it is? I say it does not.

The strength of professional soccer compared to ours is not just their perfect ball control (most of our top players are pretty good at this), it is the tactical part, the thinking part of our game, the skill of running without the ball, moving into position thus making more possible and accurate passing. Keeping possession of the ball not as individuals but as a team through smooth teamwork and well-timed passing.

For example, one of the big changes in top soccer over the last years is the more frequent use of the square ball and the back pass, tactical moves designed for two main reasons. One, to be sure of keeping possession of the ball but passing to an uncovered team-mate, even when he is far behind, and secondly, to give time to bring the whole team up, the mid-field into attack and the defence closing up behind the attack.

There is overlapping, dummy runs, etc, all tactical moves, and in this part of the game we, in Australia, fall far behind the professional teams of Europe. The main reason is not because they have better men and more time (being pros) to learn, but they have got much better teachers. The coaches are masters in tactics and have the power to dictate the game and to mould the teams into units.

Most of our coaches are just not good enough in this part of the game. First of all, they are too far removed from the ever-changing tactics to learn this, and secondly, some do not even understand tactics at all and are mere drill sergeants, fit to train for stamina and ball handling only.

Our only chance to improve is to stop paying out money to players, even the small amount paid out weekly by some clubs should be spent to attract better coaches. Coaches who can teach them modern soccer and who have the authority and power to dictate. Then when we start playing better soccer, more spectators will come and we can start thinking about paying our players. *J.J. Holzmann, former W.A. State Junior Coach.*

This is the new FIFA World Cup, the trophy that will be won at the Munich World Cup final in 1974. Weighing five kilos, the trophy is 36 Centimetres tall. It is made of 18-carat gold and is worth about $20 000.

* * *

SWAN LAGER
EXPORTED TO OVER
AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL

Singapore comeback

by Ted Simmons

(This is the first of a series of articles following a recent tour to Asian soccer centres)

"Instant Asia" is the tourist brochure description of Singapore, with emphasis on the variety of races and faces, customs and costumes, foods and festivals, and traditions and temples.

But one aspect which is not vigorously promoted at this stage is the remarkable progress of sport within this 224 square mile Republic.

In 1964, the Singapore Government decided to have a Festival of Sports to provide an opportunity for a get-together of sportsmen and by the staging of competitive events, to raise the standards of sports.

Last year more than 1,300 sportsmen and sportswomen from 20 countries took part in the Pesta Sukan Festival which is rapidly turning into an annual "Little Olympics."

Because of the popularity of sport, which brings people together, the Government decided to unite the various sporting bodies into one statutory body whose primary function would be the promotion of sport. The National Sports Promotion Board was officially formed on February 1, 1971, and the main venture embarked on by the Government and the Board is the Kallang National Sports Complex, which besides a main stadium, will also have two indoor stadiums, an Olympic-size pool, and several tennis courts.

Sport gained a further boost in 1969 when the Singapore Turf Club contributed $70,000 towards the renovation of the old Turf Club in Farrer Park for use as premises for the National Sports Promotion Board and for the various organisations to enable them to be under one roof. Sports House was officially opened last year and includes offices for the Board and for 24 national sports organisations, a sports medical clinic and gymnasium, committee rooms for meetings which can accommodate up to 200 people, an air-conditioned canteen seating 100 and office clerical services for national sports organisations.

That is the sporting scene generally. Let's look at the soccer scene.

The Kallang complex is situated in a general recreational area, near the heart of the city and adjacent to the sea.

The main stadium will in the first instance accommodate 50,000, with provision for extensions up to 100,000 spectators. There will also be two covered stadiums for indoor sports, one for 8,000 people and the other for 4,000, swimming pools, tennis courts and a velodrome. The main stadium is expected to be completed by the end of this year and preliminary work has already commenced on the second phase comprising the other features of the complex.

What should interest most Australians is that the idea for the Kallang complex was first mooted in 1964, but the actual construction started only in 1968.

And if you're wondering about transport, the third phase will be the development of facilities in the vicinity for multi-storey car parks, and a mass transportation system to provide easy and quick access to the complex from the other parts of Singapore.

To make certain that soccer was properly represented, the Board sought the services of Mr. Lim Yong Liang, MBE, the former general secretary of the Singapore Football Association and who was honoured by the Queen for his services to soccer, spanning more than a quarter of a century. "Pop" Lim as he is affectionately called, is a treasure house of soccer knowledge and proved invaluable to the Board members.

Soccer had slumped to its lowest level for many years and the Government took charge of the organisation with the promise of holding new elections as soon as the association affairs were in running order again.

During this period, Pop Lim has been constantly on call to help solve problems and to bring Singapore soccer back to a high standard.

The national team showed the benefit of more attention with improved performances at the 1971 Merdeka tournament last August when they registered two wins, two draws and two losses.

Their biggest success was a 1-0 win over Burma, the ultimate winners of the tournament, and the only defeat for the Burmese.

With the Kallang Stadium, five soccer fields at Farrer Park next to the Sports House and other fields dotted throughout the Republic, soccer is well on the way to making a triumphant comeback in Singapore.

It might be a trick of the camera but Auburn Soccer full-back Jimmy Stewart (right) seems to be handling the ball in this tussle for possession with Hakoah-Eastern Suburbs' Brazilian winger Agenor Muniz at Sydney's Wentworth Park. Hakoah and Auburn played a 4-all draw.

WORLD TALK
WORLD TALK

The Brazilian Mini World Cup is hitting icebergs and, according to a Brazilian paper, the troubles are part of an English conspiracy. In view of the fact that South Americans now have an almost pathological hate for England, some of the remarks made are not surprising.

England have withdrawn from the competition after having agreed in principle that they would attend. The snag turned out to be that the dates Brazil finally set for their tournament was in June, with the final rounds being played in Rio on June 28. England is regarded as the European nations tournament favourites at present and, given success against West Germany, could be playing in the semi-finals and final of that tournament on June 14 and 18.

Therefore, England could find it impossible to reach Brazil in time to play in the mini world cup.

The conspiracy charge made by the paper "O Jornal" came about because West Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia and Russia are in the same boat as England.

Russia have to play in the qualifying rounds of the mini cup competition on June 10, so if Russia make the semi-finals, they would have to be in two places at the same time or one of the tournaments must receive a second eleven. Not exactly the thing to do — placing a national reputation on the line with anything but the best.

Spain, asked to fill in, also refused because they have their big money-making spectacular, the Spanish Cup, with the last 16 starting the rounds on June 7, with the final on July 3.

Bad timing by Brazil has led to complication and a chance to further harden the relations between South America and Europe, which receives the traditional hate injection every year already with the intercontinental cup.

What complicates the issue is not so much England's refusal to participate, but the political implications backing the whole idea.

Billed as an event to celebrate Brazil's 150 years of independence, the mini world cup for 20 nations was put forward by Joao Havelange, the man South America is trying to boost into the presidency of the world ruling soccer body F.I.F.A. This position is presently held by England's Sir Stanley Rous.

A highly successful competition in Brazil on such a scale would enhance Havelange's chances of election, something administration and media in S.A. desperately desire. The withdrawals, therefore, are seen by the colourful press of Brazil as a conspiracy by England and Europe to prevent a successful bid by Havelange for the vital presidency.

Havelange neatly side-stepped a number of searching questions on these matters by not answering them. However it is probably indicative of the motives behind the mini cup when Havelange referred to the competition he is organising as the greatest ever festival of world soccer. That statement alone can mean so much, especially as it wipes out the prime rating of the world cup in the affairs of soccer in one sweep.

Dutch national coach Frantisek Fadrhonc has been boss of Holland for two years, but now it looks like he is getting the boot. He is being made the scapegoat for Holland's failure in the European championship.

Holland has an abundance of talent, admittedly congregated in two teams, Ajax and Feyenoord. On the results of these two sides, officials regard their country as one that should qualify for the World Cup finals. But they don't know who should guide them to this goal.

Fadrhonc's contract runs out in July, but Fadrhonc wants a decision on his future now, seeing that his position has become the number one talking point around the country. Many regard him as the best coach Holland's ever had, but others think that a new man will provide all the answers and miraculously provide Holland with World Cup results.

But Fadrhonc says: "If they think somebody is going to fall out of heaven to make Holland world champions they are making a big mistake."

Yugoslavia is undergoing its own clean up on the field English style. In the 17 weeks of the season 37 players have been sent off, while no fewer than 320 cautions have been handed out. 185 players have been involved in these figures, with one or two teams standing out.

Radnicki of Nis have had players sent off 12 times, while Zeljeznicar has had 70 bookings.

The Yugoslav F.A. imposes a fine each time a player is cautioned. All the money obtained, which is almost $4 000 to date, is placed at the disposal of youth soccer throughout the country.

For the hard pressed juniors in this country, this system of financing their projects could well be looked at.

The subject of finances is again raging in some parts of Europe. This time in Portugal, where many of the first division clubs are in difficulties.

One club, Boavista, was three months behind in paying their players, but this oversight was overcome by visiting Lisbon manager Jose [illegible] leaking the story to the press. Such unwanted publicity quickly rectified an unbearable situation for the players.

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Austrian forward Jara surrounded by Italian players runs forward to score his team's first goal in Rome. — AAP Photo.

French soccer continues to regain some of its lost glory and foreign players continue to flock to French clubs. One of the biggest captures is Brazilian centre-half of Santos Joel, who has joined Paris St. Germain. Dutch star Suurendonk, who shot to fame with a three-goal blitz for Ajax as substitute against Naples two years ago in the Fairs Cup, has transferred to Monaco. Joel should provide Paris St. Germain with one of the major talking points in the media for the rest of the season. Also with this club is former Bristol City forward Jantzen Derrick, who is fitting in well.

Spanish soccer looks like have Real Madrid back as their champions side, if the half-way mark is any indication.

It almost a historic fact that the team on top at the half-way mark usually wins the championship. Since 1950 (21 seasons) the winter champions have won the title 13 times and been runners up six times.

Valencia under Di Stefano are close to Real, and so are Atletico Madrid under Max Merkel.

But for Australians watching the European scene, Seville provides interest. Under the mercurial and arrogant Don Georgiadis, the transformation of Seville has been unnerving. Georgiadis toured Australia with the Greek national side in 1969 and later fell foul of the Greek national F.A. over his lack of results, and so quit the job for Spain.

Las Palmas created club history when they defeated Real Madrid for the first time. Barcelona, last year's cup winners and league runners-up, are in deep trouble close to the bottom of the table. They possess six of the country's most expensive players, 14 internationals of whom five are in the present squad. Observers blame coach Rinus Michels, who shot Holland's Ajax to the top of the tree. But apparently he can't forget his mighty Dutchmen, in particular Johann Cruyff, 1971 footballer of the year in Europe. He has almost destroyed a magnificent machine set up by Englishman Vic Buckingham last year.

Another Englishmen who did well, but then fell foul of the press and harping critics when things failed to go right all the time, was Ronnie Allen of Atletico Bilbao. Allen was forced to resign and since then the club has slipped from the top to relegation probability. At present it is unlikely that they will recover to avoid the drop, such is the low morale now.

Russia's new national coach is former Moscow Torpedo player Alexander Ponamaryov, who will continue to run the country's Olympic squad till after the Olympic Games in Munich this year.

He takes over from Valentin Nikolayev, who said he was too busy with his club Moscow's Central Army club, but it is certain he was sacked after indifferent showings by Russia, even though they have made the quarter-finals of the European championships.

Later this year a nostalgic testimonial will be held at Anfield, the home of Liverpool. And it will be for Ronnie Yeats, who has now gone to assist Jackie Wright in running third division Tranmere Rovers.

Yeats was the darling of the "Kop" and the chanting of his name was a familiar sound on a Saturday afternoon. Yeats was one of the first signings made by Liverpool boss Bill Shankley, who got him from Dundee United and started the rise from second division in 1962, won the championship in 1964, the F.A. cup in 1965 and the championship again in 1966.

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Sheffield United's Trevor Hockey (second left) gets his head to the ball ahead of West Ham United opponent Tommy Taylor (No.5). — AAP Photo.

WORLD TALK

The transfer of the great Uruguayan goalkeeper Ladislao Mazurkiewicz from Penarol to Atletico Mineiro of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) was the subject of much surprise and discussion in Portugal and Holland.

Sporting Lisbon had tried to gain Mazurkiewicz's services, but had to decline a $260,000 demand from Penarol, as did Ajax.

Mazurkiewicz, of Polish-Spanish descent, has played more than 100 matches for his country, including two World Cups, and was happy where he was. But obvious changes in the financial fortunes of Penarol led to the sudden transfer to Brazil and what is so surprising for only a third of the original demand.

Again finances ruled the moment, including 50,000 back pay and bonuses owed to Mazurkiewicz, which was paid to him by Mineiro as part of the deal.

With the general tightening up by referees in some European nations and with England having had well over 1,000 players booked since the start of the 1971-72 season, it would be interesting to note these figures in relation to discipline.

In the 212 international matches played under the jurisdiction of the European Football Union in 1969-70 season, there was not one serious incident involving players. In 127 games covering the entire champions cup and the cup winners cup competitions, only two men were sent off.

Break that down and it means 194 hours of top class soccer with 3,048 players taking part before crowds totalling 2.3 million — and minor incidents apart from two dismissals.

It would appear as though the animalistic tendencies of Argentina's Estudiantes has hit home in Spain. And involved was Real Madrid veteran Amancio, one of Spain's great and respected players and who is always making the headlines because of his goalscoring ability. But recently he was sent off, to everyone's amazement, after he retaliated against the constant hacking and clogging that is part of the risk he always takes when he enters the arena. It was Paraguayan Fernandez who chopped him down knee high and consequently was sent off, though Amacio's retaliation ensured that he leave the field on a stretcher.

Behind the whole incident, and others that occur almost weekly, is Granada, Fernandez's team, and none other than Aguirre Suarez, the killer of Estudiantes. All Federation and neutral observers point the finger unerringly at Suarez and said that he should have been sent off in the first ten minutes.

Disciplinary committee men suspended referee Jose Santana for two months, Amancio and Fernandez for four weeks, Vicente (Granada) for two weeks and heavily fined Granada's manager Josieto for the behaviour of his players. However, Suarez was not reported or sent off, so the disciplinary board could do nothing. Suarez badly injured Valencia's Claramunt two weeks previous to the Real incident and poor Alfredo Di Stefano, Valencia's manager, was fined for misconduct after he ranted and raved on the line at the tactics of Suarez.

Suarez starts the brawl, then stands back protesting his innocence. However, the record book shows that he has been booked five times in his first 13 matches for Granada.

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